

# IRC ALERT

## July/August 2006

Vol. 7, No. 4

### **FOCUS: The United States: A Nation of Volunteers**

We have glimpsed what a new culture of responsibility could look like.  
We want to be a nation that serves goals larger than self.  
— *President George W. Bush*

Volunteering is the most fundamental act of citizenship and philanthropy in American society. It is offering time, energy and skills of one's own free will. It is an extension of being a good neighbor, transforming a collection of houses into a community, as people become involved in the improvement of their surroundings and choose to help others. By caring and contributing to change, volunteers decrease suffering and disparity, while they gain skills, self-esteem, and change their lives. People work to improve the lives of their neighbors and, in return, enhance their own.

From their founding of colonial public libraries and volunteer fire departments, Americans long have demonstrated their eagerness to build public institutions and help their fellow citizens by donating their time, labor and money. America's federal, state, and local governments value these efforts highly and have increasingly encouraged Americans to continue and expand their volunteerism.

Volunteering has become a meaningful activity for all ages -- adolescents, adults within the work force, and retirees. Research has proven the positive rewards of doing for others and finding meaning in activities. Meaningful activity through volunteerism greatly contributes to an older person's ability to age successfully. The notion of volunteerism has been exemplified in the U.S. since the early days of barn raisings and quilting bees. Women notably led volunteer efforts. Social problems such as nursing the sick, antislavery, prison reform, illiteracy, and suffrage are examples of traditional women-dominated volunteer roles. Volunteerism is deeply rooted in U.S. ethnic and racial components.

At the heart of volunteerism are the ideals of service and solidarity and the belief that together we can make the world better. Service to one's community is an integral part of what it means to be an American. Citizen service is also at the heart of efforts to prepare the United States for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, also ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to make the most of their own lives and to help those in need.

Volunteers enrich our lives every day with their generosity and compassion. They cut across the fabric of society -- from government on all levels to the educational sector, from the religious community to health care. They respond to myriad unforeseen developments and critical persistent needs. They react to the plight of those who suffer

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from severe weather hazards -- in communities devastated by natural disasters like earthquakes, mudslides, ice storms, flash floods or tornadoes, volunteers open their hearts and homes to offer not only shelter and food, but, most important, the hope and support people desperately need to begin putting their lives back together. This spirit of citizen service has deep and strong roots in America's past. By nurturing this spirit we can help ensure a better future for our nation. Every day, across the United States, countless numbers of people from all walks of life as individuals or in groups spend hours in service to others.

While American leaders offer different visions of how government might encourage individual initiatives, all endorse volunteerism as a glory of American life. None would disagree with the 1986 words of Ronald Reagan, who called volunteer work "an aspect of the American character that is as fundamental to our way of life as our freedom to speak, assemble, and worship."

American volunteers have also actively participated in the relief efforts conducted in the earthquake hit zones of Pakistan. American doctors and engineers worked along side military and non profit organizations who provided timely assistance to thousands of Pakistanis in need of medical and housing facilities.

One might list as many examples of volunteerism as there are American communities, and more. The impulse to help remains a vital part of Americans' lives. They accept as an organizing principle in their lives the words of the educator Booker T. Washington: "If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else."

## FOCUS — Articles and Reports

### 4-1/FOC

#### **GIVING: U.S. Philanthropy**

**Society & Values, Vol. 11, No. 1, May 2006.**

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0506/ijse/ijse0506.htm>

This journal highlights several forms of giving and the

activities of a wide variety of philanthropic organizations, some under the patronage of the rich and famous, others created and operated by ordinary people. It also contains valuable resources for those who want to learn about nonprofit management, grant writing, and other topics related to modern philanthropy.

### 4-2/FOC

**IN THEIR OWN WORDS: Volunteering Society & Values: American Teenagers, Vol. 10, No. 1, July 2005, pp. 22-24.**

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0705/ijse/volunteer.htm>

Many teens want to be involved in their communities, to use their energy and enthusiasm to help others. According to Youth Service America, an organization that partners with thousands of volunteer organizations and provides volunteer opportunities for young people in the United States, millions participated in the 2005 National Youth Service Day, making it the largest annual service event in the world. Young Americans tutored school children, registered new voters, educated their communities about good nutrition, and distributed HIV/AIDS prevention materials, among many other activities. Local and global events motivate American students to volunteer their time and energy to others.

### 4-3/FOC

**VOLUNTEERISM DURING THE TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD: A Life Course Perspective**

**By Sabrina Oesterle and Others**

**Social Forces, March 2004,**

**Vol. 82, No. 3, pp. 1123-1150.**

This panel study examines whether educational, work, and family roles promote volunteerism during late adolescence and early adulthood, as they do later in adulthood. The findings reveal substantial continuity in volunteerism from adolescence through the transition to adulthood and highlight the importance of values expressed in adolescence for volunteerism in the years following. Controlling these processes, attending school during this life stage promotes volunteerism. In contrast, full-time work investments in the early life course are found to hinder volunteer participation, as does the presence of young children

in the family, especially at earlier parental ages. The results support a life course perspective for understanding civic participation.

#### **4-4/FOC**

### **VOLUNTEERING IN AMERICA: State Trends and Rankings 2002-2005**

**Corporation for National and Community Service, June 2006**

[http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/fileadmin/docdb/pdf/2006/VIA\\_fullreport.pdf](http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/fileadmin/docdb/pdf/2006/VIA_fullreport.pdf)

Between 2002 and the devastation of Hurricane Katrina four years later, Americans increased their volunteer activities in their communities significantly, from 59.8 million Americans volunteering in 2002 to 65.4 million in 2005. This upward trend in volunteering represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to tap into Americans' ingenuity, civic mindedness and generosity to build powerful new solutions to old problems in our communities. This report represents an important milestone in building service and volunteering momentum at the state level. Using first-time-available data the report presents an overview of volunteering at the national, regional, and state level – and includes state rankings on important indicators such as volunteering rate and intensity, young adult and college student volunteering rates, and volunteering among seniors.

#### **4-5/FOC**

### **VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AFTER SEPTEMBER 11: The Continuing Question of Capacity**

**By Beth Gazley and Jeffrey L Brudney**  
**Public Administration Review, March/April 2005, Vol. 65, No. 2, pp. 131-143.**

The 1990s witnessed extensive promotion of volunteerism and the creation of a federal and state infrastructure to support government voluntary activities. What has been the impact on local governments? This article reports on a 2003 survey of volunteer involvement in Georgia local government, which followed a similar 1990 study and provides a rare opportunity to examine long-term trends in public volunteerism. Volunteerism in Georgia cities and counties has increased during the past decade, with 81 percent of all jurisdictions now reporting some volunteer engagement. The events of

September 11, 2001, have had a small but generally positive effect on volunteer utilization. However, political and labor resistance to government volunteers has not been resolved. And the increase in public managers' concerns that they lack the funding or staff to utilize volunteers suggests that governmental capacity remains the principal obstacle to greater volunteer involvement in local governments.

#### **4-6/FOC**

### **VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT CAPACITY IN AMERICA'S CHARITIES AND CONGREGATIONS**

**Urban Institute, February 2004.**

[http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/vol\\_capacity\\_brief.pdf](http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/vol_capacity_brief.pdf)

The Volunteer Management Capacity study released by The Urban Institute in February 2004 shows that more than 9 in 10 charities and congregations are ready to take on more volunteers. Given current capacity, charities could take on an estimated 3.4 million new volunteers; congregational social service outreach activities could use an estimated 2.5 million new volunteers.

The U.S. Embassy assumes no responsibility for the content and availability of the resources listed below. All links were active as of August 2006.

#### **FOCUS — Internet Sites**

##### **American Red Cross**

<http://www.redcross.org>

##### **ARNOVA - Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action's**

<http://www.arnova.org>

##### **The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University**

<http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu>

##### **Corporation for National and Community Service**

<http://www.cns.gov>

##### **Energize**

<http://www.energizeinc.com>

**InterAction: American Council for Voluntary International Action**

<http://www.interaction.org>

**Philanthropy Roundtable**

<http://www.philanthropyroundtable.org>

**UN Volunteers**

<http://www.unvolunteers.org>  
[http://www.unvolunteers.org/publications/on\\_volunteerism/index.htm](http://www.unvolunteers.org/publications/on_volunteerism/index.htm)

**USA Freedom Corps**

<http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov>

**USA Freedom Corps for Kids**

<http://www.usafreedomcorpskids.gov>

**United Way of America**

<http://national.unitedway.org>

**Virtual Volunteering Project**

<http://www.serviceleader.org/new/virtual>

**Volunteers of America**

<http://www.voa.org>

**Volunteerism**

[http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life\\_and\\_culture/volunteerism.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life_and_culture/volunteerism.html)

**INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

**4-7/IS**

**AMERICA'S NEW STRATEGIC PARTNER?**

**By Ashton B. Carter**

**Foreign Affairs, Vol. 85, No. 4, July/August 2006, pp. 33-44.**

The U.S.-India deal, in which the U.S. acknowledges India as a legitimate nuclear power, has inspired much debate focused on nuclear issues. Opponents claim that Bush's concessions to India could seriously injure the integrity of the international nonproliferation regime. Ashton Carter, a Harvard professor, admits that while the deal is not balanced, damage done to nonproliferation is limited and overstated. The U.S.

government insists the deal is a broader strategic agreement, not an arms treaty. Washington gave way on the nuclear front in order to "gain much more on other fronts," in particular, gains in security down the road in dealing with Iran, Pakistan, and potentially China. Many of the benefits, however, are contingent on India's future, with "no guarantees," as India will have its "own opinions about how best to live up to the deal or not."

**4-8/IS**

**THE ATOMIC EMPORIUM: Abdul Qadeer Khan and Iran's Race to Build the Bomb**

**By Steve Coll**

**The New Yorker, August 7 & 14, 2006, pp. 50-63.**

The authors reports that efforts to determine the extent of Iran's nuclear program have been frustrated by difficulties in dismantling Abdul Qadeer Khan's nuclear trading network. While President Bush has declared the network defunct, "in fact, Khan's enterprise dispersed, diverse, and in some respects politically protected has proved difficult to untangle." Coll explores the ongoing investigations into Khan's known contacts and his relations with some of his former business associates.

**4-9/IS**

**EXERCISING WARTIME POWERS: The Need for a Strong Executive**

**By John Yoo**

**Harvard International Review, Vol. 28, No. 1, Spring 2006, pp. 14-17.**

The author, a law professor at the University of California, Berkley, and former Deputy Assistant Attorney General at the Department of Justice from 2001-2003, argues that the Constitution clearly gives the executive branch the authority to initiate military actions without first seeking the legislative branch's authorization. "Declaring" a war is markedly different than initiating, conducting, or waging one, says the author. Based upon close analysis of the Constitution, British law, and the usage of language in the 18th Century, the author finds this to be a crucial difference that was purposely written into the Constitution by the Founding Fathers. As the United States confronts an increasingly complex international security environment, the author calls upon readers to reject contentions of Congressional prerogative in

favor of the Constitution's intent: a presidency structured to act independently to repel threats with a flexible and supportive political process allowing legislators to subsequently control war through their appropriations authority.

#### **4-10/IS**

### **DOES INTENT EQUAL CAPABILITY? AL-QAEDA and Weapons of Mass Destruction**

**By Sammy Salama and Lydia Hansell**

**Non Proliferation Review, Vol. 12, No. 3, November 2005, pp. 615-653.**

The prospects of terrorists deploying weapons of mass destruction is often referred to as the foremost danger to American national security. This danger has become more realistic because of al-Qaeda's expanding global network and the expressed willingness to kill thousands of civilians. In recent years numerous media reports have documented the group's ongoing quest for WMD capabilities; many reports have detailed al-Qaeda member's attempts to manufacture or obtain certain chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) agents to use in WMD against targets in the west and the Middle East. Yet the question remains, does al-Qaeda's current WMD capability match its actual intent? This report examines the history of al-Qaeda's interest in CBRN agents, and the internal debate within the organization concerning acquisition and the use of WMD.

#### **4-11/IS**

### **THE IRAQI CONSTITUTION: A Model of Islamic Democracy**

**By Reza Aslan**

**New Perspectives Quarterly, Vol. 23, No. 1, Winter 2006, pp. 24-25.**

[http://www.digitalnpq.org/archive/2006\\_winter/aslan.html](http://www.digitalnpq.org/archive/2006_winter/aslan.html)

Iraqi leaders have created a constitution that reflects the values of an overwhelming majority of the country's population. This is a remarkable achievement in a fractured country that has never known democracy. The constitution does not guarantee democracy, but this document will give Iraq a good start at becoming a stable Islamic democracy. The path toward democracy can be grueling, and Iraqis have only just started down this long road.

#### **4-12/IS**

### **THE LONG SMALL WAR: Indigenous Forces For Counterinsurgency**

**By Robert M. Cassidy**

**Parameters, Vol. 36, No. 2, Summer 2006, pp. 15-29.**

<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usawc/parameters/06summer/cassidy.pdf>

Robert Cassidy, a major in the U.S. Army, discusses the potential use of indigenous forces in Iraq and Afghanistan today. Citing examples from past wars, Cassidy argues that properly utilizing these forces could lead to "achieved significant results." Among these results are exponential increases in the forces prosecuting counterinsurgency, better knowledge of the terrain and environment, and more actionable intelligence about the enemy. Although misuse can lead to vulnerabilities, the deliberate and early employment of indigenous forces can expand the quality and quantity of forces conducting pacification and counter-insurgency, leading to an effective method in achieving success in today's war.

#### **4-13/IS**

### **RELIGION AND THE STATE: Why Moderate Religious Teaching Should Be Promoted**

**By Amitai Etzioni**

**Harvard International Review, Vol. 28, No. 1, Spring 2006, pp. 14-17.**

The author, a professor at George Washington University, argues that the United States should promote religious schools in the Muslim world that teach a moderate version of Islam, particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq. Etzioni acknowledges that this would be a marked departure from U.S. support of secular public schools abroad -- but this secularism is not winning support from parents in the Middle East and South Asia, where fundamentalist-themed madrasas are currently the leading form of primary education. In post-totalitarian societies, religion can provide a common sense of values for the new generation and a moderate, inclusive religious message as part of the educational curriculum will bring children into schools and better prepare them for their country's future.

**4-14/IS**

**TENTACLES OF JIHAD: Targeting  
Transnational Support Networks**

**By Shawn Brimley**

**Parameters, Vol. 36, No. 2, Summer 2006, pp. 30-46.**

<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usawc/Parameters/06summer/brimley.htm>

Today, the U.S. finds itself in what will be a long protracted struggle of transnational nature against Islamist extremism. The author suggests that focus must rest on the strategic battleground. The adversaries, notably al Qaeda, benefit from an interconnected global system that increases global reach, favors the offensive, and allows greater operational security. To create capabilities and exploit enemy vulnerabilities, al Qaeda grafts itself into other networks. After 9/11, al Qaeda underwent a transformation that disproved the assumption that terrorist organizations required state support. This autonomous transnational organization relies on support mechanisms such as the ability to draw on resources from various financial sources and retaining its regenerative capabilities by being an "organization and a movement." According to Brimley, countering these transnational networks requires an increased understanding and targeting of service and support networks, where focus is on preventing the dissemination of ideology rather than countering it.

**4-15/IS**

**TO A BAGHDAD VICTORY VIA SAIGON:  
How the Wrong Nation-Building Strategy that  
Failed in Vietnam can be Righted to Succeed In  
Iraq**

**By Timothy J. Lomperis**

**World Affairs, Vol. 168, No. 4, Spring 2006, pp. 147-156.**

Among the numerous observers quick to draw parallels between conflicts in Iraq and Vietnam, Lomperis draws a unique conclusion. Insurgencies are ultimately struggles for political legitimacy among the population, he argues, and the United States must avoid the mistake it made in Vietnam by forcibly excluding the Communists from civilian politics, which contributed to its legitimacy in the eyes of the Vietnamese. For a truly capable government to emerge in Iraq, the United States must resist the

temptation to politically shut out Sunni parties expressing extremist views, and instead must "embrace the difficult but courageous strategy of inclusion -- the path not taken in Saigon -- to victory in Baghdad."

**4-16/IS**

**TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND  
U.S. GRAND STRATEGY**

**By Joseph S. Nye**

**Foreign Affairs, Vol. 85, No. 4, July/August 2006, pp. 123-148.**

Through changes he made to U.S. grand strategy after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, George W. Bush hopes to be remembered as a "transformational president," leaving a lasting mark on U.S. foreign policy. Nye points out that while senior administration officials believe "Bush's aggressive democratization will prove successful," evidence offered by history is less optimistic. Since the beginning of the 19th century, the only durable shifts in grand strategy were those of Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman. A president hoping for transformational policy to succeed usually requires a crisis and particular leadership skills, some of which Bush lack. Bush's legacy depends largely on the outcome in the war in Iraq; as of now, the jury is still out.

**4-17/IS**

**TRANSFORMING THE U.S. GLOBAL  
DEFENSE POSTURE**

**By Ryan Henry**

**Naval War College Review, Vol. 59, No. 2, Spring 2006, pp. 12-28.**

The author, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, served in the military for 24 years and also worked in the private sector with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). Pointing out that "the security environment at the start of the twenty-first century is perhaps the most uncertain it has been in our nation's history," he focuses on the factors that are driving the continuing transformation to allow the military to deal with this uncertainty and the changes involving the Defense Department concerning "our relationships and partnership capabilities around the world." He provides some historical background about transformation and describes four types of security

challenges - traditional, irregular, catastrophic, and disruptive. He also discusses the five key themes of the global defense posture strategy and provides a region-by-region synopsis of the changes that are taking place, and concludes, "Collectively, proposed posture changes provide a framework for our alliance and defense commitments overseas and for harmonizing our forces' skill sets with the shifting uncertainties of that new landscape. Global, geopolitical circumstances will continue to change, our relationships with allies and partners will evolve, and our capabilities will mature."

## DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**4-18/DHR**

**AMATEUR HOUR: Journalism without Journalists.**

**By NICHOLAS LEMANN**

**New Yorker, August 7 & 14, 2006, pp. 44-49.**

<http://www.newyorker.com>

Internet journalism, according to those who produce manifestos on its behalf, represents a world-historical development—not so much because of the expressive power of the new medium as because of its accessibility to producers and consumers. That permits it to break the long-standing choke hold on public information and discussion that the traditional media usually known, when this argument is made, as “gatekeepers” have supposedly been able to maintain up to now. “Millions of Americans who were once in awe of the punditocracy now realize that anyone can do this stuff and that many unknowns can do it

**4-19/DHR**

**THE ASSAULT ON DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE**

**By Carl Gershman and Michael Allen**

**Journal of Democracy, Vol. 17, No. 2, April 2006,**

**pp. 36-51.**

As democracy promotion programs have grown, so has resistance to these programs. Today new legal restrictions to democracy assistance pose a major threat to the advancement of democracy. This backlash against democracy is a byproduct of the rise of “hybrid regimes,” or governments which retain

democratic processes but are open to corruption and manipulation. The article outlines tactics used by such nations to limit the activities of democratic groups. For example, governments may restrict the flow of foreign funds to a local NGO. The authors propose tactical, political and normative responses to regimes that obstruct democracy assistance.

**4-20/DHR**

**ELECTION RIGGING AND HOW TO FIGHT IT**

**By Daniel Calingaert**

**Journal of Democracy, July 2006, Vol. 17, No. 3,**

**pp. 138-151.**

Authoritarian regimes around the world hold elections and manipulate them every step of the way. How do we understand and work around the challenges these regimes pose to what should be a clean and democratic electoral process? The growing sophistication of electoral fraud and manipulation has been matched by improvements in the skills and methods of election observers. Domestic and international monitoring organizations have been adopting a more comprehensive approach to election observation.

**4-21/DHR**

**ENFEEBLING THE PRESIDENCY**

**By David Rivkin and Lee Casey**

**National Review, Vol. 58, No. 11, June 19, 2006,**

**pp. 32-38.**

The authors contend that people tend to believe that the Congress' power is greater or more legitimate than the president's. However, the intention of the Framers of our nation's Constitution was to establish "the executive branch [as] a co-equal branch." They wanted the Constitution to reflect "the widespread dissatisfaction with the experience of our national governance under the Articles of Confederation, when the executive power was vested in Congress." Accordingly, a strong presidency was created in order to ensure strong national government, which in turn will protect the national interest.

**4-22/DHR**

**WARNING: E-Voting Ahead**

**By Ellen Perlman**

**Governing, July 2006, pp. 44-46.**

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires doing away with the old voting equipment and replacing them with electronic voting machines. Perlman discusses the security of electronic ballots, noting that, as long as voting has been in existence, "security of ballot boxes has been an issue." The author looks at the pros and cons of several electronic voting machines, including the touch-screen type, that has generated controversy due to its potential vulnerability, to optical-scan system, that has a backup disk. In order to insure reliability and usability, the election officials need to check and secure the voting machines diligently.

**4-23/DHR**

### **A GLOBAL SNAPSHOT**

**By Richard W. Soudriette and Andrew Ellis**

**Journal of Democracy, Vol. 17, No. 2, April, 2006, pp. 78-88.**

Designing an electoral system is a fundamental step in building a sustainable democracy. The authors explain the differences between a plurality/majority system and a proportional representation system. Soudriette and Ellis analyze five key factors to consider when selecting an electoral system: electoral boundaries, voter education, the modernization of election equipment, ballot papers and counting, and long-term sustainability. The article also includes a table comparing more than 120 countries' electoral systems.

**4-24/DHR**

### **GOOGLE**

**By David Vise**

**Foreign Policy, No. 154, May/June 2006, pp. 20-24.**

Vise, reporter for the Washington Post, outlines how the Internet search firm Google, which has been hailed as the new Microsoft, may not be as innovative and sustainable as once believed. One problem the company faces is international competition: specifically out of South Korea, where local companies have successfully thwarted Google, and Europe, where the French have invested more than \$2 billion in a Franco-German operation. Another barrier to future success is the recent debacle in China, where Google's decision to self-censor its content at the behest of the Chinese leadership has

tarnished the company's reputation. Vise concludes that while Google is likely to remain a key player in the technology market, it needs to be more innovative and globally minded to be a leader.

**4-25/DHR\***

### **THE REMAKING OF A UNIPOLAR WORLD**

**By Robert Jervis**

**Washington Quarterly, Vol. 29, No. 3, Summer 2006, pp. 7-19.**

Jervis, professor of international politics at Columbia University, asserts that the U.S., as the current hegemon, would be expected to defend its unipolar status with conservative foreign policy. Jervis argues that the opposite is now true and that the U.S. is acting more like a revolutionary state than the dominating world power. At the end of the Cold War, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton sought to maintain unipolarity with a policy of short-lived selective engagements in international crises, as was the case in the Balkans. The new U.S. policy, however, is based on the belief that America's dominance will falter unless aggressive action is taken to preserve it. The U.S. has decided to create a world order in its own image, promoting liberal democracy the world over and using military action where necessary. The problem with this new ideology, Jervis says, is that the U.S. system was not designed to support an active foreign policy and it will be too expensive and produce instability that the American public will be reluctant to support.

**4-26/DHR**

### **THE SIGNING STATEMENT GAMES**

**By Brian Friel**

**National Journal, Vol. 38, No. 24, June 17, 2006, pp. 65-66.**

The author notes that President Bush has made extensive use of signing statements on congressional bills. The president has written addendums on more than 100 laws that have crossed his desk, on the grounds that the newly minted laws limit constitutionally protected presidential power and hinder his role as commander-in-chief. Many members of Congress object to these actions, arguing that signing statements disrupt the balance of power and allow the administration to pick and choose legislation at will. Legal scholars conclude that

signing statements are another example of the continual struggle between the executive and legislative branches, and that many agencies overseen by the White House actually do comply with the laws, despite the statements. While President Bush may add signing statements to laws, agencies still rely on Congress for funding, and ultimately departments and congressional committees cooperate to implement new legislation.

**4-27/DHR**

**U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IN THE POST-COLD WAR ERA**

**By John W. Dietrich**

**Political Science Quarterly, Vol. 121, No. 2, Summer 2006, pp. 269-294.**

In the United States since the end of the Cold War, there has been more rhetorical support for human rights, more proactive measures to spread democracy and rights, new targeted legislation and new acceptance of international human rights treaties. However, despite these improvements there have been some steps backward, as evidence by the U.S. refusing to sign treaties or placing limits on ratified treaties, the author notes. U.S. power to bring about human rights changes has been limited by the spread of the global economy, the fact that the U.S. can no longer automatically count on support from its allies, the ineffectiveness of sanctions, and weakening power to enforce human rights policies. Human rights issues will never likely play a dominant role in shaping policy, Dietrich writes, due to competing priorities, particularly the pursuit of global trade and antiterrorism.

**4-28/DHR**

**WHY GOD IS WINNING**

**By Timothy Samuel Shah and Monica Duffy Toft**

**Foreign Policy, Vol. 155, July/August 2006, pp. 38-43.**

The authors write that modernization and the spread of democracy around the world are enhancing the reach of religious political movements. Religious groups that emerge from democratic processes, such as Hamas in the Palestinian Authority, tend to be more organized, more popular and more legitimate than perhaps religious leaders a few decades ago but not necessarily less violent. In the U.S. 2004

presidential election, religion was a stronger predictor of vote choice than gender, age or class. Although extreme religious ideology is a leading motivation for most transnational terrorist attacks, religion has also mobilized scores of people to oppose authoritarian regimes, inaugurate democratic transitions, support human rights and relieve human suffering. As a framework for predicting the course of global politics, secularism is unsound.

**4-29/DHR**

**UNIVERSAL VALUES AND MUSLIM DEMOCRACY**

**By Anwar Ibrahim**

**Journal of Democracy, Vol. 17, No. 3, July 2006, pp. 5-12.**

The author, former deputy prime minister of Malaysia, notes that the building blocks of constitutional democracy are also moral imperatives of Islam, despite arguments to the contrary. Ibrahim points to Indonesia's democratization as an example of successful democratic transition in the Muslim world. According to Ibrahim, the key to fostering democracy in Islamic countries is to engage a broad spectrum of thinkers in the political system. The inclination of Western leaders to embrace liberal politicians and ignore popular Islamic politicians is a mistake, he argues. For democracy to succeed in Islamic countries public opinion must be embraced, even if the public favors conservative leaders.

**ECONOMIC SECURITY**

**4-30/ES**

**ADDICTED TO OIL: Strategic Implications of American Oil Policy**

**By Thomas D. Kraemer**

**Strategic Studies Institute, May 2006, 13 pp.**

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/>

In his 2006 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush proclaimed that "America is addicted to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world" and that it was time for the United States to "move beyond a petroleum-based economy and make our dependence on Middle Eastern oil a thing of the past." To do this, Kraemer says, Bush established a goal "to replace more than 75 percent of

our oil imports from the Middle East by 2025." However, the author notes, only 18 percent of oil imports are projected to come from the Middle East in 2025. In reality, he states, the Bush goal only results in a decrease of American oil consumption by 14 percent overall. Oil is a fungible, globally traded commodity with rising demand, explains Kraemer, so this initiative will have minimal impact on influencing America's national interests in the Middle East. However, he continues, most rehabilitation programs follow a 12-step process. The Bush plan should be considered the first stage of the process in weaning America from its addiction. It is a necessary, if not fully sufficient, step to ensuring our future energy security, he concludes.

**4-31/ES**

### **BUSH'S NEXT CRISIS**

**By John Maggs**

**National Journal, Vol. 38, No. 19, May 13, 2006, pp. 32-39.**

According to the author, three crises have shaped the Bush presidency: expanding the power of the presidency, managing the insurgency in Iraq, and handling Hurricane Katrina. The next one could involve the global economy, as the risk of emerging-market financial crises may be increasing; Maggs believes that America's borrowing binge is the No. 1 threat to the stability of the world economy. Bush has embraced multilateralism on economic matters, and the International Monetary Fund has made data more available to the world. Despite Bush's uneven record in assembling an economic team and the challenges of his almost solitary approach to foreign policy, a number of factors suggest that his administration is well positioned to respond to a global financial crisis. As a candidate in 2000, Bush was skeptical of financial bailouts -- but as president, he helped Argentina in 2002-2003. Four years after Argentina defaulted on its loans, President Nestor Kirchner announced in 2005 that his country would repay \$9.8 billion lent by the IMF. At home, the U.S. has borrowed \$5.3 trillion from foreigners since becoming a debtor in 1977. Fortunately, international economic institutions and cooperation have remained strong under Bush, and he has hired some experienced people, such as Deputy Treasury Secretary Robert Kimmitt and Timothy Adams, undersecretary for international affairs, who have the

confidence of international bankers.

**4-32/ES**

### **CORRUPTION: Diagnosis and Treatment**

**By Alina Mungiu-Pippidi**

**Journal of Democracy, July 17, No. 3, pp. 86-99.**

Successfully fighting corruption in developing and postcommunist countries requires far more than instituting best practices from advanced democracies. Corruption first must be properly diagnosed; in some cases it can be effectively treated only by attacking the distribution of power itself.

**4-33/ES**

### **COUNTERFEITING: Links To Organized Crime And Terrorist Funding**

**By Peter Lowe**

**Journal of Financial Crime, Vol. 13, No. 2, 2006, pp. 255-257.**

Lowe, of the International Chamber of Commerce's Counterfeiting Intelligence Bureau, says terrorist groups have multiple sources of funding, both licit and illicit. He expects that terrorist groups and their sympathizers will become even more involved in counterfeiting and piracy in the future. Terrorists groups have, for example, produced fake drugs, smuggled drugs, pirated high-volume products such as cigarettes or DVDs, counterfeited automobile parts with fake trademarks, and used credit card fraud to raise funds, Lowe reports. Counterfeiting is an irresistible crime, he notes, since it is hugely profitable and has a low priority in law enforcement. Additionally, he explains, funds raised from counterfeiting operations perpetrated by sympathizers - with no direct ties to the terrorist groups themselves - are a major indirect funding source for terrorism.

**4-34/ES\***

### **THE IMMIGRATION EQUATION**

**By Roger Lowenstein**

**New York Times Magazine, July 9, 2006, pp. 36++**

The author discusses the question of whether the economy expands if illegal immigrants take jobs, and do they drag down wages, or create opportunity. Lowenstein notes that economists are also debating

over immigration; the latest estimate is that the U.S. has 11.5 million undocumented foreigners and it is these illegals who have galvanized the U.S. Congress to take action on immigration reform measures. As Mexican and Central American arrivals take on lower-paying jobs involving manual labor that Americans don't want to do, writes Lowenstein, jobs which otherwise would be more expensive or unavailable. Because of this, unskilled Americans must compete with a disproportionate number of immigrants. However, economists have found that in cities where immigrants have clustered, like New York, wages tend to be higher, not lower. Also, he notes, illegal immigration labor should not be the only source of blame. Other factors he considers important include the failure of Congress to raise the minimum wage, globalization (such as cheap Chinese labor), computer technology, and the decline of unions.

**4-35/ES**

### **REASONS TO WORRY**

**By Niall Ferguson**

**New York Times Magazine, June 11, 2006, pp.**

**46++**

The author asks whether the United States is capable of evolving out of its present excessive indebtedness, or could a drastic change in the global economic environment threaten, if not a collapse, at least a decline relative to smaller, more dynamic economies. Ferguson analyzes a chain effect from the collapse of household savings, the rise in home mortgage debt, a large and growing trade deficit, and the fact that Asian countries hold so many U.S. treasuries. He notes that one analyst has half-seriously calculated that the last U.S. treasury held by an American will be purchased by the People's Bank of China on February 9, 2012. Since becoming president, George W. Bush has presided over one of the steepest peacetime rises ever in the federal debt, which now exceeds \$8.3 trillion. Projections from the Congressional Budget Office expect this to be \$12.8 trillion within a decade. American consumption has been the principle source of global economic growth over the past decade, says Ferguson. However, this same readiness of American households and politicians to borrow has led to another corollary: the United States has become the world's biggest debtor. This has further resulted in a widening annual gap between American exports and imports and a remarkable accumulation of foreign

debt, with foreigners making large claims on the future output of the United States.

**4-36/ES**

### **RUSSIA'S OIL: Natural Abundance And Political Shortages**

**By Leon Aron**

**American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research: Russian Outlook, Spring 2006, 6 pp.**

With six to ten percent of the world's known oil reserves, Russia pumped an average 9.4 million barrels a day and exported around seven million in 2005, second only to Saudi Arabia. Capitalizing on these developments, President Vladimir Putin reportedly plans to place "energy security" as a central discussion point at the G-8 summit in St. Petersburg in July 2006. No one doubts that Russia will remain one of the world's leading exporters for many years but, unless arrested or reversed, several structural tendencies may significantly jeopardize Russia's ability to meet the world's rapidly growing demand for oil. These include transportation, taxation, domestic consumption, investments and ownership. Also, the success of the Russian oil boom is increasingly threatened by the government's economic policy of quasi-nationalization, which amounts to a short-term redistribution of oil wealth and asset control instead of the crucially needed long-term strategy of creating new riches and new resources.

**4-37/ES**

### **TOWARD A LONG-RANGE ENERGY SECURITY POLICY**

**By Nader Elhefnawy**

**Parameters, Vol. 36, No. 1, Spring 2006, pp. 101-114.**

According to the author, debate on U.S. energy policy has usually been limited to arguments that the United States must preserve its access to the oil reserves of the Middle East and of Central Asia -- with a limited sense that domestic energy supplies would be highly desirable. A linear projection has oil supplies running out around 2030, he says. In the event of a new energy crisis, there may be more state failures, weapons proliferation, and resource conflict. Overall, he states, there are three major problems: first, substitutes for oil are too expensive or too unwieldy to support desired levels of economic productivity

and living standards. Secondly, future improvements and relevant technologies cannot be taken for granted, particularly given the prolonged drop in the price of solar- and wind-generated energy since the 1970s. Finally, partial solutions can only provide a cushion until a more complete transition can happen. The prospect exists for an economy based on renewable energy, he asserts, because the security problems likely to result from tightening oil supplies are a basis for making the transition to alternatives -- which is widely acknowledged as inevitable in the long run, anyway.

**4-38/ES**

### **TWO MYTHS OF GLOBALIZATION**

**By A. Edward Gottesman**

**World Policy Journal, Vol. 23, No. 1, Spring 2006, pp. 37-44.**

The author notes that an economic discussion of globalization has often focused on two widely accepted, but mainly misunderstood, theories. First, China is the "next economic superpower". The growth of the U.S. in the nineteenth century, then an underpopulated, resource-rich country, during the Industrial Revolution bears no resemblance to the export-dependent growth spurt that China, with limited natural resources, has experienced since 1979. The second myth is that the current-account deficit the U.S. has run for a number of years (about a third from trade with China) is "unsustainable" and will result in some global economic catastrophe. The author writes that if we want to make sense of globalization, we need to re-focus our thinking about globalization by not comparing apples (the mature Western industrial economies) with oranges (the economies of what used to be called the underdeveloped countries, now designated as developing countries or newly industrialized countries -- NCIs, for short). In a global free market, the accumulated wealth and productive resources built up over three hundred years in Europe and in North America are the main source of financing, either directly or indirectly, for the growth of these NCIs. Debunking these theories of globalization requires an attempt to put the world economy in perspective so that one can understand the complex and often fragile process of globalization.

**4-39/ES**

### **THE THREAT POSED BY TRANSNATIONAL POLITICAL CORRUPTION TO GLOBAL COMMERCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT BANKING**

**By John T. McCormick and Nancy Paterson**

**Journal of Financial Crime, Vol. 13, No. 2, 2006, pp. 183-194.**

McCormick and Paterson, of the Federal Reserve System's Special Investigation Section, discuss the threat that transnational political corruption poses to both the world's development banking and commercial banking sectors. Through case studies, they demonstrate how corrupt officials, using various fraudulent and corrupt schemes, steal funds from development banks and then launder the illicit proceeds into legitimate commercial banking systems around the world. These activities increase development and commercial banks' financial risks and put their reputations at stake. The most important factor in reducing this political corruption is political will and commitment, the authors assert. And, they note, development and commercial banks can only expect the risks from corruption to increase as more signatory nations to various anti-corruption treaties and conventions criminalize the bribery of foreign public officials.

**4-40/ES**

### **UNIVERSAL VALUES AND MUSLIM DEMOCRACY**

**By Anwar Ibrahim**

**Journal of Democracy, Vol. 17, No. 3, July 2006, pp. 5-12.**

The desire for freedom and self-government is written in human hearts everywhere; in this there can be no "clash of civilizations." Claims that Islam is inherently hostile to democracy represent an unwarranted surrender to fundamentalist arguments; we should engage with a broad spectrum of Muslim groups, but without compromising our commitment to freedom and democracy.

**4-41/ES**

### **WILL KASHMIR STOP INDIA'S RISE?**

**By Sumit Gunguly**

**Foreign Affairs, July/August 2006, Vol. 85, No. 4, pp. 45-**

India's growing economic and diplomatic prominence is unlikely to be derailed by its territorial dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir. But given the risk that the Kashmir issue could spark a nuclear war, it is in India's best interest that it be resolved. Over the past several years, India's economic growth, diplomatic influence, and overall prestige have increased sharply. The country's new international profile adds a fresh dimension to its ongoing clash with Pakistan over Kashmir. So far, the conflict has not hindered India's rise. But the prospects that the two sides will reach a settlement on their own are dim. Washington should use its influence with Islamabad to broker an agreement and thereby cement its growing strategic partnership with New Delhi.

## GLOBAL ISSUES & COMMUNICATION

**4-42/GIC\***

### **ATOMIC BALM?**

**By Jon Gertner**

**New York Times Magazine, July 16, 2006, pp.**

**36//49.**

"For the first time in decades," the article begins, "increasing the role of nuclear power in the United States may be starting to make political, environmental and even economic sense." Today 103 reactors in the U.S. provide 20% of its electricity; some plants provide much higher percentages of electricity for their particular regions. No new plant has been approved for construction in the U.S. since 1978, the newest plant came online in 1996. It is unlikely that the plants will operate for much more than 60 years each. This presents a significant long-term problem for utility companies -- whether they should begin replacing the nuclear plants now, or whether coal will continue to be plentiful or cheap. Industry experts anticipate caps on carbon emissions that will significantly raise the cost of producing electricity from coal, and are skeptical about alternative fuels as major sources of electricity. Natural gas prices are high already. The author runs through the long list of pros and cons to building new nuclear power plants, including arguments that utilities, instead of increasing electricity, should be encouraging consumers to reduce their needs. Still,

the author concludes that building new plants may indeed be reasonable. "The fact is," one nuclear expert is quoted as saying, "there is no perfect way of generating electricity. There are byproducts of every type."

**4-43/GIC**

### **BRAVE NUCLEAR WORLD?**

**By Karen Charman**

**Worldwatch, Vol. 19, No. 4, July/August 2006, pp. 12-18.**

The author examines the technical feasibility of managing nuclear power. The article begins with a quick review of the ongoing health impacts of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster and then spotlights the serious concerns of several experts on the current oversight practices of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in managing aging American nuclear power plants. New designs, such as the pressurized water reactor (PWR) and related configurations may not meet the safety claims of the manufacturers. Nuclear waste disposal is a problem without a ready solution, and reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel is complex and expensive, leaving more waste to manage. The article concludes by stating that a significant increase in nuclear power production would not do enough to combat climate change and notes that increased investment in renewable energy is needed. This edition features the 2006 Goldman Environmental Prize Winners.

**4-44/GIC**

### **THE NEXT BIG ONE**

**By Joel Achenbach**

**National Geographic, Vol. 209, No. 4, April 2006, pp. 120-147.**

The modern science of seismology was born after the 1906 earthquake that hit San Francisco. Considerable progress has been made in studying earthquakes, yet they continue to take humanity by surprise. The author explores the advances that scientists have made in trying to predict when earthquakes will strike, and the efforts by local and national governments in quake-prone regions of the world in making buildings, utilities, communications systems and transportation infrastructure less susceptible to damage in a quake.

**4-45/GIC**  
**RESCUING A PLANET UNDER STRESS**  
**By Lester R. Brown**  
**The Futurist, Vol. 40, No. 4, July-August 2006,**  
**pp. 18-25.**  
<http://www.wfs.org/summariesja06.htm>

The Earth cannot sustain the levels of energy and resource consumption of the Western lifestyle if it is adopted by hundreds of millions of people in developing nations, writes the president of the Earth Policy Institute. The world must move toward a new economic model powered by renewable energy -- such as wind, solar, geothermal and biofuels -- and by a manufacturing strategy which designs and creates all products for ultimate recycling. Technology and knowledge of how to achieve this new economic model is well within the human grasp, if not already available, but making the transition before economic decline and environmental collapse begin is the difficult thing. Brown suggests movement to an honest market which gives weight to factors currently overlooked or ignored -- the indirect prices of production, the cost of environmental damage and consequences to future generations.

## U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

**4-46/SV**  
**ALEXANDER HAMILTON: The Man Who Modernized Money**  
**By Laura Wolff Scanlan**  
**Humanities, Vol. 27, No. 1, January/February 2006, pp. 16-19.**

An exhibit currently traveling around the U.S. focuses on the life and legacy of Alexander Hamilton, one of the Founding Fathers and the first Secretary of the Treasury. While Hamilton is usually remembered as the one who died in a duel with Aaron Burr, the author notes that Hamilton had some of the most modern ideas of the founders -- the need for an independent press, a strong central government and treasury, a national banking system and a mixed economy. As the primary author of THE FEDERALIST essays, Hamilton persuaded a reluctant American public to adopt the Constitution. Growing up on St. Croix in the West Indies, he

witnessed the brutality of slavery; he also realized the necessity of an economy based on manufacturing, not just farming, because on the islands, everything had to be imported. Notes the author, Hamilton "left an imprint on American institutions still present two centuries after his death."

**4-47/SV**  
**ALL ROADS LEAD THROUGH AMERICA: Celebrating 50 Years of the Interstate Highway System**  
**By Angelina Sciolla**  
**AAA World, July/August 2006, pp. 62-68.**

A half-century after President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Federal Highway Act of 1956, thus launching one of the most ambitious infrastructure endeavors in U.S. history, the Interstate Highway System underscores how much America has changed -- much for the better, but not without a bit of nostalgia for the less complicated life of days long past. The 1956 legislation launched the construction of superhighways with wider lanes designed to accommodate higher speeds, with no intersections, traffic signals or rail crossings to interfere with the steady flow. Today, more than 46,000 miles of highway crisscross the nation, forming a system that includes 82 tunnels, some 14,000 interchanges and more than 55,000 bridges. Over the years, the establishment of this system has changed the tourism industry and vacation habits and led to the ubiquitous "weekend getaway" that has been embraced by the traveling public.

**4-48/SV\***  
**DOES AMERICA HAVE AN ARTS POLICY?**  
**By Tyler Cowen**  
**The Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 52, No. 41, June 16, 2006, p. B13.**

In this article, Cowen debunks several myths about arts in the U.S., contending that "the United States has arts policies as active as those of Europe, and more effective." While many European arts institutions receive 80 percent or more of their budgets from governments and the U.S. government provides just five percent, these numbers do not reflect the total picture. The U.S. government supports the arts through philanthropy and the tax system, which encourages individuals and

corporations to donate to the arts. For example, in 2003 Americans donated over \$29.4 billion to nonprofit arts groups, or nearly \$100 per capita. Support to American higher education is another way the government indirectly funds the arts, where nearly four-fifths of all students attend state-supported schools. Subsidized by tuition and donations, colleges and universities play a major role in educating, employing, and otherwise supporting painters, writers, musicians, filmmakers, and other artists.

**4-49/SV**

**A CITY CALLED HEAVEN; MY KIND OF**

**TOWN: Chicago, Illinois**

**By Studs Terkel**

**Smithsonian Magazine, Vol. 37, No. 4, July 2006, pp. 19-22.**

Though Chicago is no longer the legendary city celebrated by poet Carl Sandburg, oral historian Studs Terkel writes affectionately about his boyhood home, once referred to in the gospel song "A City Called Heaven." Terkel, nine years old when he moved to Chicago in 1921, was excited to be at the center of the nation's railways. During the years when he lived and clerked at his parents' hotel, he met many of the labor movement's notable figures. Now at age 94, he reflects on what has happened to the city; his feelings "a bit more mellowed and seared. He is aware of its carbuncles and warts, a place far from Heaven, but it is his town, the only one he calls home."

**4-50/SV\***

**CULTURAL RENAISSANCE OR CULTURAL DIVIDE?**

**By Bill Ivey and Steven J. Tepper**

**The Chronicle of Higher Education, 19 May 2006, pp. B6-B8.**

Contending that America is on the threshold of a significant transformation in cultural life equal to the changes brought about by Gutenberg's invention of the printing press, the authors distinguish between those who increasingly are becoming producers of their own art and cultural experiences (using such products as iPods or TiVos) and those with less time, money, and knowledge who are left to the mercy of a few mass-media giants. With technology and economic change conspiring to create a new cultural elite and a new underclass, the former chairman of the

National Endowment of the Arts and his colleague at Vanderbilt University challenge educators, artists, and arts leaders to create a cultural life that embraces all Americans.

**4-51/SV**

**FREEDOM IS A WONDERFUL THING**

**By David Oliver Relin**

**Parade, July 2, 2006, pp. 4-6.**

"Freedom is wonderful -- I can't describe how wonderful," says Ngawang Sangdrol, a 27-year-old Tibetan now living in New Jersey and studying English. In a series of essays timed to the recent American Independence Day celebrations, a university professor who is a native of Rwanda, the India-born editor-in-chief of Yahoo! and a Harvard University Medical School graduate who came to the United States from Mexico join Sangdrol in describing their personal journeys to freedom and security. "Everyone who comes to America knows about the opportunity here," says Mexico native Dr. Erick Miranda. "No matter where you come from or how poor you are, there is a path open to you here [in the United States] if you can navigate poverty's obstacle course."

**4-52/SV**

**A SURVEY OF WEALTH AND PHILANTHROPY**

**By Matthew Bishop and Others**

**The Economist, Vol. 378, No. 8466, February 25, 2006, special insert, 16 pp.**

"It's very, very striking that the new philanthropists, the likes of Bill Gates or Pierre Omidyar, who founded eBay, or Thomas Hunter, the Scottish retailer, who are coming into the field, are all very concerned about how do we make sure that our money isn't wasted, that it actually does make a difference. And they're rethinking the way philanthropy is done," asserts Bishop while discussing the first article of the survey: "The Business of Giving." The next article, "To Have, Not to Hold," addresses the rise of the new philanthropist, a product of the recent creation of vast global wealth. "The Birth of Philanthrocapitalism" compares the new philanthropists, who see themselves as social investors, with the founders of more traditional foundations. "The Good Company" asks: "Is corporate philanthropy worthwhile?" in light of the

recent scrutiny given corporate philanthropy since the collapse of Enron. Additional articles treat "The Rise of the Social Entrepreneur," "Virtue's Intermediaries" (new businesses that are trying to make philanthropy work better), and "Faith, Hope and Philanthropy," which looks at the techniques the new philanthropists are using to improve the management of charities, non-profits, NGOs, and the social sector. The survey is accompanied by several useful charts and graphs.

**4-53/SV**

### **WHAT IS RETIREMENT FOR?**

**By W. Andrew Achenbaum**

**Wilson Quarterly, Vol. 30, No. 2, Spring 2006, pp. 50-56.**

The author reviews the history of aging, retirement and financial security in the United States and puts the retirement of today's Baby Boomer generation in context. People are living and staying healthier longer and are making up an ever increasing proportion of the population. "Now more than ever," he says, "we need to form a clearer collective conception of what retirement out to be." It is his expectation that the workforce will be more flexible and allow older employees to work part time or on a project-to-project basis. Many Boomers, he predicts, will become volunteers as their parents have done. This article is one of a series of this publication's essays that deal with "The Sovereign State of Retirement," the title of this Spring's edition.

## **DOCUMENT ALERT**

**4-54/DOC**

### **BLOGGERS: A PORTRAIT OF THE INTERNET'S NEW STORYTELLERS**

**By Amanda Lenhart and Susannah Fox.**

**Pew Internet & American Life Project, July 19, 2006.**

[http://www.pewtrusts.org/pdf/PIP\\_Bloggers\\_071906.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/pdf/PIP_Bloggers_071906.pdf)

According to this report, eight percent of Internet users, or about 12 million American adults, keep a blog. Thirty-nine percent of Internet users, or about 57 million American adults, read blogs - a significant

increase since the fall of 2005. Fifty-four percent of bloggers say that they have never published their writing or media creations anywhere else; 44 percent say they have published elsewhere. While generally youthful, these writers otherwise represent a broad demographic spectrum of people who cite a variety of topics and motives for their blogging. The American blogosphere is dominated by those who use their blogs as personal journals. The survey that serves as the basis for the report, reveals that bloggers do not think of what they do as journalism. Most bloggers say they cover a lot of different topics, but when asked to choose one main topic, 37 percent of bloggers cite "my life and experiences" as a primary topic of their blog. Politics and government ran a very distant second with 11 percent of bloggers citing those issues as their blog's main subject. Entertainment-related topics were the next most popular blog-type, with 7 percent of bloggers, followed by sports (6 percent), general news and current events (5 percent), business (5 percent), technology (4 percent), religion, spirituality or faith (2 percent), a specific hobby or a health problem or illness (each comprising 1 percent of bloggers). Other topics mentioned include opinions, volunteering, education, photography, causes and passions, and organizations.

**4-55/DOC**

### **ETHICS ESSENTIALS: A Primer for New Judges on Conflicts, Outside Activities, And Other Potential Pitfalls**

**Judicial Conference of the United States,**

**Committee on Codes of Conduct, April 2006;**

<http://www.uscourts.gov/library/ethicseentials.pdf>

This overview, written for new federal judges, emphasizes the importance of understanding and observing standards of ethics. The document highlights essential standards of conduct, answers recurring questions, and provides examples of common situations new judges may encounter. The appendix includes simple but useful checklists that help judges decide what particular circumstances constitute a conflict of interest. The chapter headings provide a guide to the primer's coverage of judicial ethics: Conflicts of Interest and Recusal; Gifts From Outside Sources; Use of Official Position; Outside Activities; Fund-Raising Activities; Political Activities; Former Employment.

#### **4-56/DOC**

#### **HOLDING FORM: Voter Registration 2006 Election Reform Information Project, Electionline.org, July 2006.**

<http://www.electionline.org/Portals/1/Publications/ERIPBrief13.final.pdf>

The U.S. voter-registration process remains largely unchanged, says this report, despite changes in many other facets of the election process. The report, the result of a survey of state election directors conducted at the start of the 2006 primary season, finds that voter registration is still largely a paper-and-pen affair requiring stamps and mailboxes. Registration lead times can exceed a month in some states, and rules regulating what information is on forms -- as well as who can distribute and collect them -- vary greatly across state lines. Among the findings: \* While the variety of services available from state governments online is growing in most areas, it remains largely under-utilized in the voter registration field. Forty-one states use the Internet as a place for voters to find forms, but once located such forms still need to be printed, filled out by hand, and sent to, or dropped off at, a registrar's office. \* Only one state, Arizona, allows for a completely paperless, online registration, using digital signatures from Department of Motor Vehicles transactions. Even with the Internet option, however, Arizona voters must complete the registration at least 29 days before an election.

#### **4-57/DOC**

#### **ICT USE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD: AN ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENCES IN COMPUTER AND INTERNET PENETRATION**

**By Menzie D. Chinn and Robert W. Fairlie.  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Center for  
World Affairs and the Global  
Economy (WAGE). June 19, 2006.**

<http://wage.wisc.edu/uploads/Working%20Papers/developing6.pdf>

The authors of this study employ regression analysis to examine the global digital divide. They discuss various factors and reach conclusions about the most important determinants that explain the differences of computer and Internet use in developed versus developing countries. Among their conclusions are

the following: \* Per capita income is the most important factor in explaining the gap in computer and Internet use. Overall economic growth alone is insufficient to close the global digital divide. \* Telephone access pricing variables may not be as important as previously thought in explaining Internet penetration disparities. \* The level of legal development is a very important explanatory factor with respect to global ICT disparities. According to the authors: "Differences in legal development as measured by the Rule of Law index sometimes account for substantial portions of the gaps in technology use.

#### **4-58/DOC**

#### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: Initial Observations on the Stop Initiative and U.S. Border Efforts to Reduce Piracy**

**By Loren Yager**

**United States Government Accountability Office  
(GAO), July 26, 2006.**

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d061004t.pdf>

Because protection of intellectual property in many parts of the world is inadequate, U.S. goods are subject to substantial counterfeiting and piracy, creating health and safety hazards for consumers, damaging victimized companies, and threatening the U.S. economy. Industry groups suggest that counterfeiting and piracy are on the rise and that a broader range of products, from auto parts to razor blades, and from vital medicines to infant formula, are subject to counterfeit production.

#### **4-59/DOC**

#### **ISLAM, MILITARISM, AND THE 2007-2008 ELECTIONS IN PAKISTAN.**

**By Frédéric Grare**

**Carnegie Endowment for International Peace,  
August 2006.**

[http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/CEIP\\_CP\\_70\\_fnl2.pdf](http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/CEIP_CP_70_fnl2.pdf)

The year 2007 will be crucial for the future of democracy in Pakistan, according to this Carnegie Endowment report. Presidential elections are scheduled for the fall of 2007 and the general and provincial elections will be held on January 30, 2008. Many commentators in the West believe that the Pakistani regime will portray the elections as a contest

between Islamists represented by the MMA (a coalition of religious political parties) and the enlightened moderation of President Pervez Musharraf and the Pakistan Army. The author argues that the reality is that the Islamic forces will not be the defining factor. They are, he says, a dependent variable whose power is largely determined by the army. According to Grare, the only real questions are whether the army will try to manipulate the 2007-2008 elections and what role the Islamic parties will play in the process.

#### **4-60/DOC**

### **REBUILDING AND RESILIENCE: Five Years After 9/11**

**Electronic Journal, Department of State, August 2006.**

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0806/ijpe/ijpe0806.htm>

This journal examines how the United States has rebounded and how the international community has rebuilt and come together to condemn terrorism in the five years since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Highlights include articles about the rebuilding of the area around the World Trade Center, U.S. government efforts to facilitate travel to the United States, an interfaith roundtable, planned 9/11 memorials, and how survivors are rebuilding their lives. By visiting the website, one can also view the video "Terrorism: a war without borders."

#### **4-61/DOC**

### **THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN STABILIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION**

**By Camille Pampell Conaway.**

**United States Institute of Peace (USIP). August 2006.**

[http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/srs/srs\\_three.pdf](http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/srs/srs_three.pdf)

In January 2001, the U.S. Congress enacted the Afghan Women and Children Relief Act of 2001, calling attention to the needs of the civilian population following the overthrow of the Taliban, and mandating the provision of education and health care assistance for women and children. In March 2004, a bipartisan group of Congressional members formed the Iraqi Women's Caucus to support women's access to education and training, and

encourage their participation in the political process and democratic transition. In March 2005, the focus of Congress expanded from specific conflicts to global concern, and the Women and Children in Crisis and Conflict Protection Act of 2005 was drafted and referred to relevant committees. The Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) was established at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in recent years, and in 2004 the administration created the Office of Stabilization and Reconstruction at the Department of State. Both are currently reviewing and developing strategies and policies to prevent and address conflict, and have pledged to integrate women, peace, and security into their mandates. Representatives of these offices liaise frequently with the women's offices within their agencies and consult with relevant international and national-level nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to guide the process for implementation of their commitments.

#### **4-62/DOC**

### **WOMEN IN MEDIA 2006: Finding the Leader in You**

**By Mary Arnold and Mary Nesbitt**

**Northwestern University, Media Management Center; McCormick Tribune Foundation. July 2006.**

<http://www.mediamanagementcenter.org/publications/data/wim2006.pdf>

Since 2003 the media world has seen the share of executive positions held by women increase only slightly, by two percentage points, to 29 percent. And the number of women publishers has remained the same, at 18 percent in the 137 newspapers surveyed. Women have some qualities that fit well with a constructive culture, say the authors of this report. Overall, women's leadership style tends to be inclusive and collaborative, rather than hierarchical, and they are often more attuned to the changing needs of the marketplace. What women in the news field need to focus on now, according to Arnold and Nesbitt, is developing the leadership skills that they will need to develop a business. The report stresses that leaders must be willing to constantly step outside their comfort zone, take risks and tolerate some failures. As leaders, they also need to encourage others to do the same.